

11th

# Sample Items

*English  
Language  
Arts  
Spring 2015*

**MICHIGAN STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION**  
**STATEMENT OF ASSURANCE OF COMPLIANCE WITH FEDERAL LAW**

The Michigan State Board of Education complies with all Federal laws and regulations prohibiting discrimination and with all requirements and regulations of the U.S. Department of Education. It is the policy of the Michigan State Board of Education that no person on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin or ancestry, age, sex, marital status, or handicap shall be discriminated against, excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination in any program or activity for which it is responsible or for which it receives financial assistance from the U.S. Department of Education.

The sample items included in this set can be used by students and teachers to become familiar with the kinds of items students will encounter on the paper/pencil summative assessments. The sample items demonstrate the rigor of Michigan's academic content standards. They are not to be interpreted as indicative of the focus of the M-STEP assessments; they are simply a collection of item samples. Every standard is not included in this sample set.

**Read the text and answer questions 1 through 7.**

**Sustainable Fashion**

by Tyson Butcher

“Sustainability” is a popular buzzword these days, but what exactly does it mean? According to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), sustainability “creates and maintains the conditions under which humans and nature can exist in productive harmony . . . [and] that permit fulfilling the social, economic, and other requirements of present and future generations.” As the idea of living a sustainable lifestyle has become more widespread in recent years, consumers have begun to demand that the products they buy are produced in sustainable ways. It’s a trend that has made a new type of clothing, dubbed “eco-fashion,” very fashionable indeed.

Why has clothing become such a concern for those who want to live more sustainably? Consider that Americans threw away an estimated 13.1 million pounds of clothing and textiles in 2010, or 5.3% of all solid wastes that made it into U.S. landfills that year (according to the EPA). As large as those numbers are, they do not even include shoes or other wearable accessories that were thrown out. While 15% of this clothing was recovered for reuse and recycling, that still leaves a lot of old clothes and shoes in the nation’s landfills.

But the environmental impact of clothing involves more than just where our used clothes end up. To calculate the true impact of, say, a cotton T-shirt, we must go back to the beginning: to the farm where the cotton was grown. Cotton is a very water-intensive crop that is typically grown with heavy application of insecticides; in fact, cotton accounts for more insecticide use than any other single crop in the world. Cotton that is grown in the U.S. is often shipped off to other countries, such as China and Honduras, where it is processed with chemicals and dyes before being made into our T-shirt. The completed shirt is then shipped back to America, where it is sold. While all that shipping back and forth uses up a lot of energy, shipping actually accounts for less than half of the energy that will eventually be used on that T-shirt over its lifetime. According to the Audubon Society, about 60% of the energy cost of a T-shirt comes from washing and drying it—and washing adds a water cost as well.

Given this environmental impact, it’s easy to see why many consumers are bypassing cotton T-shirts for clothing that is produced in more sustainable ways. And where consumer dollars have gone, clothing makers have followed. Many companies have started using organic cotton that is grown without pesticides or chemicals. Others use natural fibers that require less water than cotton, such as bamboo or hemp. A wide array of natural fibers—some old, some new—have become increasingly popular with consumers and manufacturers, including wool, silk, jute, corn, flax, and soy.

While some eco-conscious consumers avoid synthetic, petroleum-based fabrics, such as polyester and nylon, even these fabrics can be produced in more sustainable ways by using recycled materials. One clothing company recycles

plastic soda bottles and makes them into winter parkas. Other companies recycle old clothes and then remanufacture the synthetic material into new clothes.

Sustainability, however, does not just mean being good to the environment; it also means being fair to fellow human beings. Clothing is often made in ways that are hazardous to workers who are underpaid and mistreated. One of the goals of the eco-fashion movement is to make sure that the farmers who grow the raw materials and the workers who manufacture the clothing are able to work in safe and fair workplaces.

Eco-fashion's rise in popularity has even caught the attention of some top fashion designers who are beginning to add organic silks and recycled-plastic fabrics in their clothing. Overall, however, the fashion industry has been slow to pick up on this trend. While the big design houses have hesitated, many smaller clothing makers have moved quickly to fill the demand, producing clothes in a sustainable way and marketing their eco-friendliness to consumers. If successful, these smaller brands are sure to get the attention of larger brands and others looking to profit from the movement.

Given this rush to capitalize on eco-fashion's newfound popularity, consumers who seek true sustainability in the products they buy would do well to remember the old Latin phrase *caveat emptor*: let the buyer beware.

Shoppers everywhere are now bombarded with advertising and packaging that touts the "organic," "fair trade," or "green" qualities of a product. While some of these terms are defined by regulations (for example, organic crops are certified by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration), others are open to interpretation: what really makes a product "green"? Consumers who wish to purchase truly sustainable products should examine the labels closely—and perhaps even do some research on the manufacturers—to make sure the products are actually as eco-friendly as they say they are.

Fashion is an industry that is built on constant change, and designers and manufacturers are always seeking out the next big thing. However, there is every reason to believe that sustainable clothing is something more than just a temporary fashion trend. With human populations rising, along with the demand for limited resources, the current popularity of sustainable clothing is likely to become an enduring, long-term shift in the way clothes are made and sold.

1. Select the sentence from the text that **best** supports the conclusion that clothing manufacturers have not been operating in an ecologically sustainable way.
  - A. "Consider that Americans threw away an estimated 13.1 million pounds of clothing and textiles in 2010, or 5.3% of all solid wastes that made it into U.S. landfills that year (according to the EPA)."
  - B. "Cotton is a very water-intensive crop that is typically grown with heavy application of insecticides; in fact, cotton accounts for more insecticide use than any other single crop in the world."
  - C. "A wide array of natural fibers—some old, some new—have become increasingly popular with consumers and manufacturers, including wool, silk, jute, corn, flax, and soy."
  - D. "One clothing company recycles plastic soda bottles and makes them into winter parkas."
2. Read the conclusion and the directions that follow.

The fashion industry has started to become more sustainable.

Chose the sentence that **best** supports this conclusion.

- A. "Sustainability, however, does not just mean being good to the environment; it also means being fair to fellow human beings."
- B. "One of the goals of the eco-fashion movement is to make sure that the farmers who grow the raw materials and the workers who manufacture the clothing are able to work in safe and fair workplaces."
- C. "While the big design houses have hesitated, many smaller clothing makers have moved quickly to fill the demand, producing clothes in a sustainable way and marketing their eco-friendliness to consumers."
- D. "If successful, these smaller brands are sure to get the attention of larger brands and others looking to profit from the movement."
- E. "Shoppers everywhere are now bombarded with advertising and packaging that touts the 'organic,' 'fair trade,' or 'green' qualities of a product."
- F. "Consumers who wish to purchase truly sustainable products should examine the labels closely—and perhaps even do some research on the manufacturers—to make sure the products are actually as eco-friendly as they say they are."

3. Which statement **best** summarizes the central idea of the text?
- A. Consumers must be wary of companies who use false advertising to benefit from the eco-friendly trend.
  - B. Workers in the garment industry must be compensated fairly and allowed to work in a sustainable environment.
  - C. The fashion industry is likely to dispose of the eco-friendly trend once consumers become interested in other types of fashion.
  - D. There are many considerations within the production, manufacturing, and recycling of textiles that support the need for sustainability.

4. Read the sentence from the text.

Shoppers everywhere are now bombarded with advertising and packaging that touts the “organic,” “fair trade,” or “green” qualities of a product.

What does the word touts **most likely** mean?

- A. appreciates
- B. criticizes
- C. discerns
- D. glorifies

5. This question has two parts. First, answer part A. Then, answer part B.

**Part A**

Based on the text, what conclusion can be drawn about the fashion industry?

- A. It causes less harm than other industries.
- B. It is likely to continue its non-eco-friendly practices.
- C. It changes when the attitudes of consumers change.
- D. It is likely to convince consumers to buy non-eco-friendly products.

**Part B**

Which sentence from the text **best** supports your answer for part A?

- A. "As the idea of living a sustainable lifestyle has become more widespread in recent years, consumers have begun to demand that the products they buy are produced in sustainable ways."
  - B. "Consider that Americans threw away an estimated 13.1 million pounds of clothing and textiles in 2010, or 5.3% of all solid wastes that made it into U.S. landfills that year (according to the EPA)."
  - C. "According to the Audubon Society, about 60% of the energy cost of a T-shirt comes from washing and drying it—and washing adds a water cost as well."
  - D. "Given this rush to capitalize on eco-fashion's newfound popularity, consumers who seek true sustainability in the products they buy would do well to remember the old Latin phrase caveat emptor: let the buyer beware."
6. Choose the statement that **best** describes what the use of the cotton T-shirt example shows about the fashion industry's attempt at becoming a sustainable industry.
- A. There is an increased cost in energy related to the cleaning of cotton products.
  - B. There is more to a sustainable industry than just recycling; there is also production to consider.
  - C. The fashion industry is already very sustainable; cotton use proves the industry presently uses natural fibers.
  - D. The fashion industry must move away from natural fibers and toward man-made materials to be more sustainable.

7. How does the second paragraph affect the structure of the text as a whole?
- A. It outlines the main reason for the need for sustainable fashion.
  - B. It explains how the EPA is helping solve the landfill problems.
  - C. It details the process of recycling clothing, which is done at U.S. landfills.
  - D. It explains the main effect that sustainable fashion has on the environment.
8. A student is writing a report on a science project for astronomy class about the planet Jupiter. The student wants to revise the draft of the report to have a better conclusion. Read the draft of the report and complete the task that follows.

Orbiting the Sun at an average distance of 500 million miles, Jupiter is the largest planet in our solar system.

To gain an understanding of truly how massive Jupiter is, we can compare it to the very planet we inhabit: Earth. With a mass of 5.97219  $\times 10^{24}$  kg, Earth is approximately 318 times less massive than Jupiter, which also has a volume equivalent to 1,321 Earths.

In fact, Jupiter is so large that its mass is more than twice that of all the other planets in our solar system combined. Even from 400 million miles away, the planet is large enough to be seen in the night sky and is bright enough to cast a shadow on Earth.

Moreover, the famous red spot we have seen in countless satellite images and artist depictions is, at its widest, around 3 times wider than our planet. Meanwhile, one of Jupiter's 67 moons, Ganymede, has a diameter 8% larger than that of the planet Mercury.

Choose the conclusion that **best** explains the significance of the informational text.

- A. However, in 2013, astronomers discovered a new planet, HD 106906b, which was estimated to have a mass 11 times greater than that of Jupiter.
- B. After Mercury, Venus, Earth, and Mars, Jupiter is the fifth planet from the Sun. Indeed, the larger planets—Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, and Neptune—are the four most distant.
- C. It is partially because of Jupiter's enormous size that the Earth is not frequently bombarded by large meteorites. Meteors of this kind are often diverted away from Earth's trajectory by Jupiter's substantial gravitational field. In this regard, Jupiter is Earth's protector.
- D. In 1994, a large comet broke apart and collided with Jupiter in what was the first direct observation of two solar system objects colliding. The impact left a scar that remained visible for several months afterward.



9. A student is writing a letter to the school board about its plan to require students to wear electronic identification tags. Read the beginning of the letter and complete the task that follows.

I am writing in support of the school board's plan to require students at my school to wear electronic identification tags (EIDs) that will allow the administration to track the location of all students. Although the proposal may raise privacy concerns, its implementation would uphold and defend the school's very reason for being—teaching. As anyone at my school can attest, teachers and school administrators waste precious instructional time tracking down students who skip class to hangout with their friends. The purpose of school is to give young people the opportunity to learn skills and information required to succeed in life. We learn not only how to read, write, and understand math, but also how to interact with others. For these reasons, school is the most important place in a young person's life, and the achievement of its mission should not be hindered by unruly students. EIDs would help ensure that it isn't by allowing educators to focus on education. Some may contend that requiring students to wear EIDs constitutes a warrantless search and so runs afoul of the Fourth Amendment.

**Student Notes:**

The student has taken these notes from credible sources:

- The Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution states — “the right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers, and effects, against unreasonable searches and seizures, shall not be violated, and no warrants shall issue but upon probable cause, supported by oath or affirmation and particularly describing the place to be searched, and the persons or things to be seized.”
- U.S. Supreme Court in *United States v. Jones*—police must obtain a warrant before attaching a global positioning system (GPS) tracker to the car of a suspected drug trafficker.
- U.S. Supreme Court in *New Jersey v. T.L.O.*—schools have a responsibility to maintain order, which can override Fourth Amendment rights when there is “reasonable suspicion” that a school rule has been violated.
- U.S. Supreme Court in *Vernonia School District 47J v. Acton*—schools have a responsibility to maintain order in the “special situation” of public schools and that responsibility overrides the student’s right to privacy.
- National technology blogger—EIDs can be hacked to show wrong locations for people wearing them.
- Study of several Los Angeles high schools—students at schools using EIDs trust teachers less than students at schools not using EIDs.
- Study of crime rates in areas around high schools—no significant relationship between the use of EIDs and crime near campus.

The writer wants to acknowledge a counterclaim to the argument introduced in the first paragraph. Using the student's notes, complete the second paragraph by writing the counterargument.

- 10.** A student is writing a critical review for the high school newspaper about an recent music revue. Read the draft of the review and complete the task that follows.

The high school music revue is always one of the most eagerly anticipated events of the school year. With more than fifteen acts taking part in the proceedings, this year's event was of a very high caliber. Particularly impressive was when the high school orchestra closed the event with a series of ragtime classics. Performing their closing number for a second time, the orchestra returned to the stage at the end of the night for what would be a richly received segment.

The student wants to make sure that his word choices are appropriate to inform his audience about the music revue. Choose the best **two** words to replace the underlined word.

- A.** interlude
- B.** sequel
- C.** encore
- D.** overture
- E.** reprise
- F.** prelude

- 11.** Brad is writing a research paper on bats for his biology class. Read the draft of the paper and then complete the task that follows.

Bats are an important part of our ecosystem. The bat population is decreasing because people are destroying its natural habitat. Consequently, the bats' homes are disappearing. The need to replicate their shelter is great. Providing bat houses is one way to achieve this goal. Bat houses, like bird houses, are easy to construct and virtually maintenance free, and their benefits are monumental.

Brad wants to join the underlined sentences. Choose the sentence that is punctuated correctly.

- A.** The bat population is decreasing because people are destroying its natural habitat; consequently the bats' homes are disappearing.
- B.** The bat population is decreasing because people are destroying its natural habitat; consequently, the bats' homes are disappearing.
- C.** The bat population is decreasing because people are destroying its natural habitat consequently; the bats' homes are disappearing.
- D.** The bat population is decreasing because people are destroying its natural habitat, consequently; the bats' homes are disappearing.

- 12.** A student is writing a research report about different ways people can be environmentally conscious for environmental biology class. Read the credible sources that the student found and the directions that follow.

**Source 1:** Article from the magazine *Family Life Being* environmentally aware does not have to be difficult. Recycling has been a common practice for many years. In fact a recent study funded by a paper association shows that over 87% of Americans have access to recycling opportunities. Not every item needs to be sent away to be recycled. Recycling at home is as easy as asking yourself a simple question before throwing something away: "Can this item be used for anything else?" It is surprising to find that the answer is usually "yes." Recycling items that would ordinarily be trash by altering their original function is known as repurposing.

**Source 2:** Environment column from City Times Waste Management reports that more than 40% of America's landfill waste is made up of paper products. Many Americans are attempting to lower that percentage by recycling or repurposing. Cereal boxes can be cut into dresser-sized organizers and used to sort dress socks, athletic socks, and odd socks. Magazine holders can be created by cutting cereal boxes on a diagonal. The uses of this single piece of trash are endless. As long as the repurposed item stays out of the landfill, it does not matter how it is transformed or used.

The student wants to include information from the sources in her report but does not want to plagiarize the authors' ideas. Read sentences from the report and choose the **two** sentences that are plagiarized.

- A.** People sometimes throw away things without regard for the environment. Forty percent of waste in America's landfills are recyclable paper products.
- B.** There are many ways of being environmentally conscious that do not cost money but require a little extra effort.
- C.** Many people are aware that recycling can reduce the amount of landfill waste.
- D.** When trash is converted into something useful, it is called repurposing.
- E.** For example, cereal boxes can be used to organize dresser drawers or store magazines.
- F.** Recycling and repurposing can have a positive impact on the environment.

- 13.** A student is writing a research report about the history of pickup trucks in the United States. Read the paragraph from his report and the directions that follow.

Modes of transportation have changed over the years based upon new innovations and consumer needs. First appearing in 1931, pickup trucks in the United States were adaptations of automobile models. Instead of backseats, the pickup trucks had flat platforms. They were bought and used mostly by farmers who needed an effective way to haul bales of hay around their land and into town. It wasn't until the 1950s when pickups became a popular transportation option for those in rural and urban environments that their production and sales increased throughout the entire United States. With two-tone paint, color-coordinated fabric seats, and racy, powerful engines, many young people in large cities started buying pickups in the 1960s. Some researchers contend that an interest in pickups continued to grow in the 1970s and 1980s when Americans became increasingly more interested in country-western music. Pickups became widely popular with all age groups, partly because they were one way to identify with the country-western culture that was popularized by several Western-themed movies, popular singing artists, clothing, and food choices.

Choose **two** credible sources that would most likely give the student more information for his paragraph.

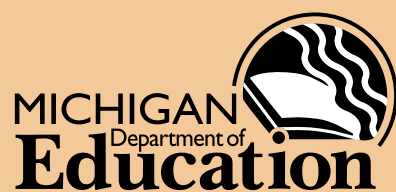
- A.** *A History of Cars and Trucks in America* by Jackson Tolliver  
This book describes the history of the transportation industry in the United States from the 1800s to the 1980s.
- B.** *The Old and New: America's Fascination with Cars and Trucks* by Brandon Carmichael.  
This book explores the cultural and demographic shifts that have affected car and pickup truck sales trends in the United States.
- C.** *America's Reality: The Battle Continues* by Frank Denton.  
This book describes the historical context that has led to a long-standing sales competition between US auto and pickup truck companies.
- D.** "Pick Up Trucks: Up Close & Personal" by Tyrone Sheldon  
The writer of this blog tells why he owns pickup trucks. Describing their style, speed, and function, he chronicles America's fascination with trucks.
- E.** "Designed to Last: America and Its Cars and Trucks" by Whitney Winston  
This article describes the design changes that have occurred in American automakers' most popular pickup trucks and luxury cars from the 1950s to the present.
- F.** *Consumer Report: "The Vehicles Americans Are Buying Today"* by Brian Billups  
This article in a consumer magazine focuses on statistics and explores why some people opt not to buy cars or pickup trucks, but instead are purchasing SUVs, sports utility vehicle.

- 14.** Nail fungus can be a minor problem that can turn into an infection if not treated properly. Nail fungus can occur in one's fingernail or toenail. They usually find their way into the body through a small crack in the nail. Nail fungi grow in warm, wet places such as a locker room where they can spread from person to person. Sometimes, people can develop a fungus if they wear warm socks to bed on a daily basis. If nails become thick, then an annoying fungus can stick to them. Home remedies include soaking the nail in a bowl of antiseptic mouthwash or apple cider vinegar. If home remedies do not help, making a doctor appointment is probably needed. The doctor will probably recommend a topical cream or oral medications. If an infection is left untreated, surgery may be required.

The author of the article wants to replace the two underlined words. Which **two** pairs of words best replace the underlined words to fit the author's intended purpose and audience?

- A.** predicament, connect
- B.** annoyance, attach
- C.** irritation, adhere
- D.** situation, join
- E.** torment, link
- F.** agony, clamp





*Office of Standards and Assessment (OSA)*

*Phone: 1-877-560-8378*

*Website: [www.michigan.gov/baa](http://www.michigan.gov/baa)*

*Email: [baa@michigan.gov](mailto:baa@michigan.gov)*